**Gary Proulx**

**EDU 702.22**

**Spring 2010**

**Wiki Assignment # 3**

***Statement of the Problem:*** This year I have been given the opportunity to teach the 5th grade gifted class. After four years at PS 13, having taught both 4th & 5th grades, I felt it was an honor and a privilege to have been asked to do this. From the very beginning I noticed something different about the parents’ behavior. Different from the parents I had in the regular education classes. The difference was their involvement. From day one, they were outside to great and meet me. They handed me supplies, telephone numbers, shook my hand, some even hugged me. During our annual “Open School Night,” there were so many parents and students in my classroom, they had to stand. It was an eye opening revelation. I remember thinking to myself; *these kids are gifted because of their parent’s involvement.*

In my experience, at a low income urban school in East New York, when parents are not directly engaged in their child’s education, the student’s level of achievement suffers.

***Research Hypothesis:*** My research will investigate the common characteristics of highly engaged parents in low income urban schools to better understand what inspires their engagement.

***Action Research:*** I will survey and conduct a focus group with highly engaged parents from PS 13.